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With Washington moving toward approval of an economic recovery package for the States, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) has a list of potential projects that may utilize federal recovery monies. As you may be aware, the economic recovery bill will likely require projects to meet certain time frames for contract award, drawing down of funds, and completion. Projects that do not meet these requirements may lose funding eligibility. Therefore, the Department and the State will need maximum cooperation, commitment, and responsiveness from our utility partners.

Utility work is a fundamental and required component of transportation projects and the Department is counting on your skilled and experienced workforce to join us in this team effort. We must be ready on all fronts if we are to avoid delays, reduce potential cost overruns, and deliver the best possible product to the people of Connecticut with minimal disruption.

Once these projects begin, our State will realize many economic benefits associated with these infrastructure improvements. Today, as we face many economic challenges, we must strive to work together to rebuild our roads, our economy, and most importantly, our future. We value our long and mutually beneficial collaboration with the utility companies of our State and look forward to a future of continued cooperation and teamwork.

As soon as the economic recovery bill has been enacted, the Department will be working with your company to finalize utility construction plans and estimates, to execute the utility agreements, and to authorize utility relocation work. A review of all potential projects under this program shows that the utility relocation efforts required have been anticipated and should not delay their implementation. Because of the importance of this program to the State, I wanted to make you aware of the Department's plans.

If you should have any additional questions, please contact Mr. Sohrab Afrazi, Principal Engineer, at (860) 594-3262.

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Joseph F. Marie Commissioner